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8. (Original) A process as in claim 1 wherein the step b) is performed at a temperature below the glass transition temperature of the polymer material.

9. (Original) A process as in claim 8 wherein the step b) is performed at room temperature.

10. (Original) A process as in claim 1 wherein the step c) is performed at a temperature above the glass transition temperature of the polymer material.

11. (Original) A process as in claim 10 wherein the step c) is performed at a temperature within the range of about 90°C to about 150°C.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A process for forming a tubular article of a polymeric material, the process comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a generally tubular article of said polymeric material;
- b) radially expanding the article to produce an expanded diameter article; and then,
- c) annealing the expanded diameter article to shrink its diameter to a reduced ~~diameter~~ diameter.

wherein the steps a) - c) are all performed prior to deployment of the tubular article in a body,  
and wherein at least one time steps b) and c) are repeated in sequence.

16. (Original) A medical device adapted for body lumen navigation and/or treatment produced by the process of claim 15.

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17. (Currently Amended) A process for forming a tubular article of a polymeric material, the process comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a generally tubular article of said polymeric material;
- b) radially expanding the article to produce an expanded diameter article; and then,
- c) annealing the expanded diameter article to shrink its diameter to a reduced diameter diameter.

wherein the steps a) - c) are all performed prior to deployment of the tubular article in a body,  
and wherein the polymer material is a biodegradable polymer.

18. (Original) A process as in claim 17 wherein at least one time steps b) and c) are repeated in sequence.

19. (Original) A process as in claim 17 wherein the polymer material is selected from the group consisting of poly(alpha-hydroxy acid), polylactic acid-polyethylene oxide copolymers; modified cellulose; collagen or other connective proteins; adhesive proteins; hyaluronic acid; polyanhydrides; polyphosphoesters; poly(amino acids); copolymers thereof; and mixtures of any of said materials.

20. (Original) A medical device adapted for body lumen navigation and/or treatment produced by the process of claim 17.

21. (Currently Amended) A process for forming a stent of a polymeric material, the process comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a tube of said polymeric material;
- b) radially expanding the tube to produce an expanded diameter tube;
- c) annealing the expanded diameter tube to shrink its diameter to a reduced diameter; and subsequently
- d) forming a stent from the annealed ~~tube~~ tube.

wherein the steps a) - d) are all performed prior to deployment of the stent in a body.

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22. (Original) A process as in claim 21 wherein the steps b) and c) are repeated at least once before step d) is performed.

23. (Original) A process as in claim 21 wherein in step d) the stent is formed by machining or etching the reduced diameter tube obtained from step c).

24. (Previously Presented) A process as in claim 1 wherein in step a) a pattern of perforations is provided in the tube wall.

25. (Canceled)